

Ambassador Feinstein's Remarks for US Army Awards Ceremony to Polish Soldiers
August 23, 2012, Chancery Lobby, 2:00p.m.

I would like to thank everyone for joining us today, and to especially recognize you, the representatives of Poland's current and past Armed Forces.

This month, we all paused to commemorate the 68th Anniversary of the beginning of the Warsaw Uprising. This was an effort that was doomed by betrayal; an effort that for nearly 50 years could not be discussed in your own country; an epic that was wiped from the pages of history by those who were intent on imposing upon you and the world an alien and brutal ideology.

Beginning in 1939, your sons and daughters of Poland waged unfathomable struggles while fighting for the very survival of your nation and for the proposition that democracy could flourish in Central Europe. Given the ruthlessness of the enemies and the direness of the situation, it is easy to see why many questioned whether Poland, and Europe, would ever again see the light of freedom.

But your awe-inspiring fight stretched to all corners and facets of the war. May we never forget your sacrifices.

It is therefore appropriate that we have gathered here to also honor you – the current generation of Poland's patriots, who have been standing behind the United States as our allies and fellow defenders of all that we hold sacred.

Indeed, our world would be a much darker place were it not for your heroic accomplishments and those of your countrymen.

I am reminded that the United States might never have been born were it not for the efforts of Polish patriots who fought alongside us in our War of Independence.

I believe that today's prosperous and secure Europe would not exist if not for your sacrifices and the inspiration that you provide to future generations.

My friends, it is altogether fitting that we are gathered in Warsaw – the capital of an independent, secure and prosperous democracy – to honor Polish veterans who sacrificed so much for our sakes.

It is altogether proper that our two great nations continue to honor the Polish and American veterans who, throughout our mutual histories, have demonstrated the virtues that bind us together in our trans-Atlantic partnership: selfless service; dedication to duty; love of liberty; and a willingness to defend our freedoms and the freedoms of others.

I thank you for your spirit, your courage, your sacrifices.

May God always bless you, Poland and the United States of America.